

U.S. panel cuts 'Star Wars' budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — A committee of the House of Representatives, following earlier Senate committee action, has taken a big bite out of President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" spending request, virtually assuring that the president will not get the money he wants next year for the futuristic missile programme. The House armed services committee voted Tuesday to cut Mr. Reagan's 1986 spending request for "Star Wars" — known formally as the strategic defence initiative (SDI) — by nearly 33 per cent, from \$3.7 billion to \$2.5 billion, according to congressional sources who spoke only on condition they not be identified. That followed a previous vote in the Senate armed services committee to trim SDI spending back to \$3.4 billion. Any differences between the defence bills passed by the two chambers will be reconciled later.

Jordan Times

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IEA sees limited scope for oil

PARIS (R) — Demand for crude oil in non-communist countries in 1985 could leave some slight room for OPEC to relax its self-imposed production ceiling of 16 million barrels per day (bpd), according to figures published Wednesday by the International Energy Agency (IEA). Forward projections in the agency's latest monthly oil market report indicated scope for a slight tightening of market conditions compared with a month ago, and contrasted with this week's further weakening of prices on the world oil markets. The IEA estimated current liftings of crude oil by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) at around 16.2 million bpd, significantly higher than the 15 to 15.5 million bpd figures cited recently by OPEC ministers. The report forecast likely non-communist world consumption at 46.4 million bpd in 1985.

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Rydbek carries message for King

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees Commissioner General Olof Rydbeck arrived here Tuesday with a message to His Majesty King Hussein from United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. UNRWA sources said the message dealt with the agency's situation in the Kingdom.

(UNRWA staff, refugees stage sit-in, page 3)

Saudis pledge \$100m to Africa fund

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank said Tuesday that Saudi Arabia has pledged \$100 million to the bank's special facility for drought-stricken sub-Saharan Africa. The Saudi pledge, to be paid over three years, brings total contributions to the facility to \$1.2 billion. Along with Britain, West Germany, Japan and Switzerland, Saudi Arabia has agreed to jointly finance lending projects selected by the facility. Some 10 other nations have agreed to contribute directly to the fund.

Syrians now man SAM-5s, report says

TEL AVIV (R) — The Soviet Union has handed over control of SAM-5 anti-aircraft missile batteries in Syria to the Syrian armed forces, the Jerusalem Post reported Wednesday. The report quoted Western intelligence sources as saying it was unclear why Soviet personnel had relinquished control of the long-range surface-to-air missiles. It said about 2,000 Soviet military advisers had left Syria recently. Fired from Syria, SAM-5s can hit targets over northern and central Israel.

U.S. panel backs Walter's nomination

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 10-0 Tuesday to recommend confirmation of Vernon A. Walters as U.S. President Ronald Reagan's choice to become the new U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Mr. Walters, 68, has previously served as a three-star army general, a negotiator at the Paris peace talks during the Vietnam war, an interpreter to Richard M. Nixon when he was vice president and as deputy director of the CIA. Since 1981, he has been a roving ambassador in the Reagan administration.

U.S. representatives okay trade pact

WASHINGTON (R) — The House of Representatives Wednesday overwhelmingly approved a free-trade-zone pact between the United States and Israel that will end all trade restrictions between the two countries over the next decade. The house approved the U.S.-Israeli accord on a vote of 422 to 0. Earlier Tuesday, the Senate Finance Committee voted to recommend the full Senate adopt the agreement. Final congressional approval is expected later this week.

Arafat leads joint team to Peking

Reports clash on possible talks with U.S.

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat left Amman for Peking Wednesday at the head of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation formed to spearhead a new diplomatic offensive for a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem by contacting the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

The joint delegation comprising Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Hazem Nuseibah on the Jordanian side and PLO Executive Committee member Abdul Rahim Ahmad and Fatah Central Committee member Hani Al Hassan, also plans to visit the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain. Reports said Tuesday that Moscow will receive the joint delegation separately.

The joint delegation's international moves are within efforts to rally support for the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO on joint action to reach a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem. The Feb. 11 accord calls for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict through convening an international Middle East peace conference under United Nations auspices in which all parties to the region's conflict would participate. It also calls for an Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and the establishment

U.S. State Department spokesman Edward Djerejian said Tuesday the Reagan administration was considering a meeting that would involve U.S. officials and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation including members of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

"All PNC members are also members of the PLO," PLO Executive Committee member Brig. Abdul Razaq Yehya told the Jordan Times. "We have not agreed (with the U.S.) on any list of Palestinian members to participate in a delegation," he said. Mr. Djerejian's comments came in response to questions about a front-page article published in the Christian Science Monitor newspaper Tuesday which said Jordan and the PLO "have agreed on a list of non-PLO members" to be part of such a joint delegation.

The Monitor article, citing an unnamed Jordanian official as its source, said the Palestinian members of the joint delegation would be drawn from the PNC. "We submitted specific names to (U.S. Under-Secretary of State) Richard Murphy, and we are waiting for the American response to that," the official was quoted as saying.

If the U.S. accepts the names, the official said, the team could meet with U.S. officials this month. He described such a meeting as the first step towards negotiating peace between Israel and the Arabs. The Monitor said in its report that the team would be headed by Arafat.

The Jordanian official said he believes U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will approve the Palestinian team.

(Continued on page 2)

Rockets keep Beirut's 'green line' closed for seventh day

BEIRUT (R) — Rocket blasts Wednesday kept most crossings between east and west Beirut closed for the seventh day running as President Amin Gemayel consulted government ministers and the army on ways of ending fighting in the city.

A multi-sectarian security committee abandoned an attempt to reopen the main "museum" crossing when grenades fired into the air exploded over the road, security sources said.

A back road was open to light traffic, eyewitnesses said, but the other five crossings between the mostly Muslim eastern and predominantly Christian western sectors of the city were closed as militiamen traded sporadic artillery and sniper fire.

The clashes were muted compared to heavy shelling on Monday night which newspaper and radio reports said killed 35 people and wounded more than 140, bringing fears of all-out civil war.

In talks with Prime Minister

Rashid Karami, Defence Minister

Adel Ossseiran and army commanders, Mr. Gemayel declared the army was the only hope for peace, official sources said.

Work was continuing to create the "appropriate atmosphere" for the army to deploy, Mr. Gemayel said, adding: "Other armies cannot do so and should not be a substitute."

Muslim sources say the latest fighting is apparently linked to attempts by Syrian-backed militias to isolate Samir Geagea, strongman behind a revolt by the mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia against Mr. Gemayel's political reliance on Syria.

Education Minister Selim Hoss said political tension had eased slightly after a decision by the army Tuesday to try to secure the removal of heavy guns from the "green line".

Interviewed by Reuters, Mr. Hoss also cited agreement Tuesday between Mr. Gemayel and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad

to proceed with Syrian-backed efforts for national reconciliation.

Meanwhile, political sources said Lebanese Muslim leaders have told Syrian-backed Palestinian commando leaders they will not be allowed to launch rocket attacks against Israel from South Lebanon.

They said this was made clear to delegates of the newly-established leadership of the Damascus-based "Palestinian national salvation front" who arrived in Beirut Tuesday.

The five-man team's most important talks were with Nabih Berri, minister of state for South Lebanon and leader of the Shi'ite Muslim militia Amal which has taken over much of the south from departing Israeli troops, the sources said.

The team also met Mr. Karami and Mr. Hoss.

Lebanon holds key to own peace, page 2

East and West mark anniversary of war with prayers and parades

LONDON (Agencies) — From Moscow to Warsaw, Paris and London, Europeans marked the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe on Wednesday with prayers, parades and parties recalling the bygone sorrows and the joy that erupted when the fighting ceased.

Today's national leaders traded messages of good will across the boundaries that now divide Europe, reminding each other of the long-sundered alliance that joined the Soviet Union with the West against the Nazis of Adolf Hitler's Germany.

In Britain, Queen Elizabeth II, her husband Prince Philip and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher led a congregation of 2,000 at Westminster Abbey for a solemn service to commemorate the anniversary.

London municipal authorities organised a fireworks display Wednesday night along the Thames River, and Britons continued a series of street parties that were meant to evoke the jubilant atmosphere following Prime Minister Winston Churchill's announcement on May 8, 1945, that fighting would end at one minute past midnight.

Churchill said his people could allow themselves "a brief period of rejoicing" before continuing the fight against Japan in the Far East.

In Poland, members of the West German anti-NATO Greens Party laid a wreath at the Auschwitz concentration camp Wednesday.

West German President Richard von Weizsaecker, speaking to parliament in Bonn, said the defeat of Nazi Germany 40 years ago was a "day of liberation" for the Germans.

Reflecting the mixed feelings in his country about the war observances, Mr. von Weizsaecker said World War II had been started by Hitler, and it brought heavy suffering on the German people who now see their land divided.

Later Wednesday, Mr. von Weizsaecker was joined by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl at an ecumenical religious service at the cathedral in Cologne.

In East Berlin, a ceremony was held at the anti-fascism monument in the East German capital, and in the western half of the divided city a peace demonstration was held with speakers including U.S. civil rights leader the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

German pollsters said a "silent majority" of the West Germans see nothing worth commemorating in public.

In Paris, 200 young Germans took part in a rare ceremony displaying the battle flags of all the French armed forces on the broad Champs Elysees.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday inaugurates a central mechanical equipment and electronics workshop of the Royal Maintenance Corps (Petra photo)

Birzeit reopens after 2-month closure

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (Agencies) — Palestinian students attended classes at Birzeit University's new campus for the first time in two months Wednesday as an Israeli closure order expired, a university spokesman said.

The large new campus at Birzeit, in the occupied West Bank, was closed on March 8 after Israeli authorities raided a Palestinian exhibition at the university.

The Israeli army claimed "material of incitement", including "guerrilla warfare manuals," had been found at the show.

The new campus is one of the largest on the West Bank, and many of the 1,500 students who used it have been crowding into Birzeit's smaller campus to attend classes, the spokesman said.

Dr. Hanna Nasir, president of Birzeit University who has been exiled by the Israeli authorities, said Wednesday that it was the 10th time that the university was closed down by the Israeli forces.

"However, despite the closure order, the university offered its students normal courses by holding classes in the old campus and rented apartments in Birzeit village," Dr. Nasir told the Jordan Times.

The university adopted the alternate means to continue normal courses "in order to ensure that no student lost the academic year or course," Dr. Nasir, a resident of Amman, said.

"The university, in the strongest terms, condemn the continuous harassment that the occupation authorities subject the institution to," Dr. Nasir said.

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan marked the 40th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe on Wednesday by accusing the Soviets of trying to "spread their dominance by force."

In a speech to the European Parliament, the president was booed by members of the audience when he talked about what he called the "ineffectual" Western response to Soviet moves in Central America.

Mr. Reagan ignored the protesters at first, but responded when heckling and desk-pounding greeted his declaration there were "Soviet efforts to profit from and stimulate regional conflicts in Central America," Mr. Reagan

paused, grimaced and interjected, "they haven't been there. I have."

Scattered heckling continued after Mr. Reagan had gone on to other subjects. After defending his "Star Wars" programme, saying peace with the Soviet Union must be based on "effective deterrence and the reduction of tensions," the president referred to parliament deputies who were leaving the hall in protest. Smiling, he said, "You know, I've learned something useful. Maybe if I talk long enough in my own Congress, some of those will walk out."

The audience erupted in loud applause.

Mr. Reagan argued that his proposed space-based missile shield, or "Star Wars", offered one of the best prospects for peace, and would make the Soviet-U.S. arms race obsolete.

Despite his repeated mention of the Soviet Union and references to World War II, Mr. Reagan did not point out that the Soviets were American allies during the conflict.

Addressing officials from 10 nations, Mr. Reagan warned the West not to be complacent about the Kremlin's military intentions.

"It has chosen... to build nuclear forces clearly designed to strike first, and thus to disarm their adversary," he said.

Complaining that Moscow is developing multi-warhead mobile missiles that could not be monitored for arms control, Mr. Reagan said, "The Soviet Union is growing ever more belligerent in character and has become a constant negative factor in international relations," he said.

"The aggressive strivings of the ruling elite of that country manifest themselves in attempts to undermine the military-strategic balance..."

"We shall not permit the military balance between the United States and the Soviet Union to be upset," he went on.

The Soviet leader, who made similar remarks critical of the U.S. in a speech two weeks ago, repeated an appeal for a return to reunification of divided Germany within its pre-war frontiers.

In a clear reference to Mr. Reagan's visit to Bitburg cemetery, he said leaders had appeared after the seven-nation Bonn summit last weekend "who not only tried to justify the SS thugs, but also paid respects and tribute to them."

The United States was the main target of Mr. Gorbachev's hour-long speech, which reviewed the country's role in World War II and the state of the postwar world.

"American imperialism is at the forward edge of the war menace to mankind," he said.

Hussein to visit Jeddah on Saturday

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein will visit Jeddah on Saturday for talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported Wednesday.

The King visited Kuwait and Bahrain on Monday and Tuesday and held talks with Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait and Sheikh Issa Ibn Salman Al Khalifah. The talks were believed to have dealt with the current situation in the Middle East in the wake of the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine

Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a joint political strategy towards a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem.

Arab diplomatic sources quoted by the Associated Press said the King's visits to Kuwait and Bahrain were aimed at briefing Sheikh Jaber and Sheikh Issa on the Jordan-PLO strategy and muster their support for the moves.

The King was accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem.

Attending the inauguration ceremony were Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, ministers, the presidents of Jordanian universities.

King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Wednesday inaugurated a central mechanical equipment and an electronics workshop.

Following the inauguration ceremony, the King visited several sections of both facilities where he was briefed on the functions of the projects and their technical and financial feasibility as well as on the equipment used in there.

Royal Maintenance Corps Director Brigadier Adnan Qasab earlier delivered a speech at the inauguration ceremony, underlining the Armed Forces' policy to promote and upgrade efficiency and expertise of engineers and technicians and to become as good as their counterparts in industrialised countries.

Brig. Qasab named the workshops after the King's name, Al Hussein. He said that these workshops will be a "solid base for developing a strong national industry in the field of armoured vehicles."

Caradon, meanwhile denounced the settlements as "representing a catastrophe, theft of land and grave impediment to peace efforts."

The Palestinians have been exposed to "tremendous injustices," he said, adding "I personally feel this injustice as I know the Palestinians well."

Lord Caradon also expressed disappointment in Washington's Middle East policy. "I believe the U.S. failed to fathom and absorb the principal needs of guaranteeing liberty for the Palestinians, security for Israel and independence for Lebanon, all of which are interdependent issues," he said.

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King opens Armed Forces workshops

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UNIFIL is 'disturbing element', Shamir says

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the U.N. peacekeeping force that has been in South Lebanon since 1978 was a "disturbing element" in the area and was no longer needed.

"We consider that UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon) does not have to be in the area at all. It does not help the security of the area and is a disturbing element," Shamir said in remarks made during a tour of the border town of Kiryat Shmoneh on Tuesday. They were aired by Israel Radio on Wednesday.

There has been some friction between the 10-nation, 5,800-man peace force and Israeli troops in recent weeks after Israel announced its intention to set up a so-called security zone in South Lebanon that would overlap onto areas controlled by U.N. troops.

The zone is expected to extend

10 to 15 kilometres into Lebanon, and the area is patrolled by Israeli-backed militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

In the latest incident Saturday, U.N. spokesman Timor Goksel said a half-dozen Israeli-backed militiamen disarmed a Dutch foot patrol, confiscated their jeep and took them at gunpoint to a nearby village.

The five U.N. soldiers were released after several hours when Dutch officers contacted the Israeli army, Goksel said. The militiamen sought compensation for the wounding of a comrade in an earlier incident involving Irish soldiers, he said.

Mr. Shamir said that after contacts with international organisations "we have the impression that they are getting closer to our point of view... I think that in the near future, they (the United Nations) will understand that there is no need for this force."

Israeli military intelligence officers recently completed photographing wide areas of South Lebanon to map routes for any future Israeli invasion. Israel's armed forces magazine reported Wednesday.

Over the last three months, intelligence teams visited hundreds of South Lebanese villages since vacated by the army as part of its troop withdrawal, according to the magazine Bamahaneh.

The report said the officers, accompanied by engineers and geologists, mapped out and photographed possible future invasion routes and targets.



MAJALI BRIEFS PRESS TEAM: University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali (third left) Wednesday briefs a visiting Chinese press delegation on the university's development. He also discussed cooperation and student exchange possibilities with Chinese universities (Petra photo)

Lebanon holds key to own future peace

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A stable and lasting peace in Lebanon will come only when "the Lebanese work together to deal with the problem in a united way," says David Mack, director of Office of Lebanese, Jordanian and Syrian Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

Mr. Mack expressed his views as one of three panelists in a seminar May 4 sponsored by National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA). The seminar, "The 1982 Legacy: South Lebanon," was one of four at the 13th National Convention of the NAAA, whose 1985 theme was "Making the Difference."

While panelists Abdullah Bouhabib, ambassador from Lebanon, and Richard Parker, editor of the Middle East Journal, could reach consensus on what was needed to implement peace in the area, each held different predictions for the future of Lebanon. They disagreed on whether Lebanon would end up a partitioned country.

While neither speaker said he wanted partition, Mr. Parker said that it would happen due to the vacuum in leadership, and the lack of concerted action and cooperation between the many factions in that country including its army.

Mr. Parker and Mr. Mack called for decisive leadership in Lebanon. Mr. Bouhabib conceded that the Lebanese must come up with a formula that would achieve

the result of internal cooperation, and also asserted that Lebanese, and only Lebanese could accomplish this, or have the authority to determine the future of Lebanon.

Mr. Bouhabib said that "as a result of the 1982 war, Lebanon is more united now than is visible." It serves to remind those who might otherwise be so inclined toward expansion, he said, that "Lebanon may be easy to swallow but hard to digest."

Asking the audience of assembled Arab Americans if they knew what America's vital interest in the future welfare of Lebanon might be, Mr. Mack said, "Lebanese stability lessens the likelihood of regional conflict especially between Israel and Syria." That stability, Mr. Mack said, is also a "vital world concern."

The U.S. government, Mr. Mack said, welcomes the implementation of the Israeli withdrawal decision. "We look forward to the completion of the withdrawal and to the eventual extension of Lebanese authority right down to the international border," he added.

Delineating the principles of U.S. policy for the area, Mr. Mack said they are based "first of all, on total Israeli withdrawal; secondly, Lebanese sovereignty to the border; third, on a role for UNIFIL; fourth, the need for agreed security arrangements for the Lebanese-Israeli border; five, the value of

direct talks as a means to reach agreement on security measures, and six the need for effective progression on the ground, rather than empty resolutions and empty sounding speeches in the United Nations."

"We also believe UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon) can play a useful role in the process, but we cannot wish away the problems of getting to the point of full Lebanese control on the border," he added.

Mr. Mack said that the United States "recognises that U.S. contributions to (solving) Lebanon's problems cannot be of central importance... solutions must come from within." He added that Lebanon's government and its people have elements essential to peace within their grasp.

"The U.S. in supporting Lebanon is supporting a people who have a tradition of free institutions," Mr. Mack said. "We are supporting a country that, and can again be a model of a dynamic free market economy."

"The U.S. has long supported the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Lebanon," he explained. Moreover, he predicted, "When the Lebanese start letting that army with its modern equipment and its fine training and brave men do the job that it has to do, the international community can rethink the question of what kind of security arrangements are best."

Experts discuss U.S. contribution to peace

WASHINGTON (USIA) — At a University of Maryland sponsored discussion, experts on the Middle East agreed that the United States has played a significant mediating role in Mideast affairs.

Speakers included prominent members of the academic world, government and the media. They participated in the second of the Phillips lecture series sponsored by the university's centre for International Development.

Six speakers presented their views on the ongoing search for peace in the Middle East and the geopolitical problems of the area. The American mediators, they said, have helped diffuse several potentially explosive crises.

Dr. Graeme Bannerman, senior staff person for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said, "I think that for the last three of four presidential administrations, the United States has been deeply committed to peace not only in Lebanon but the entire Middle East. There have been momentary successes at Camp David and in the Sinai but there have been setbacks, too." He said that the overall result of America's Middle East policy "has been to make major conflicts less likely."

"The United States cannot force peace or meddle in the Middle East," he pointed out. If people in the area are willing to take political risk for peace, the United States will help them out.

Bannerman added that no one could doubt America's commitment to the safety of Israel. "At the same time," he emphasised, "we don't look to any single state as a buffer against the Soviets."

When asked about America's attitude toward the Palestinians, Bannerman replied, "I don't think that there is anyone who doesn't feel for the tragedy of the people in the occupied territories. The treatment of people in those territories is a major concern of the United States. Some say we do too little and some say we do too much. But it is our concern that the people receive justice."

Professor Iliya Harik of Indiana University added that the region is much too diverse to allow a comprehensive policy. "The practice of the United States," he said, "has been to follow a bilateral approach with different countries."

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And Robert Pranger of the American Enterprise Institute emphasised that the United States "must be faithful to its own objectives and push, but not force, peace."

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Arafat, joint team leave

(Continued from page 1) names during his scheduled May 12 visit here. If Mr. Shultz approves it, then Mr. Murphy will stay behind and could meet with the negotiating team within two weeks, the newspaper quoted the official as saying.

The State Department deputy spokesman said "the question of the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, its composition and our possible meeting with PNC members in this forum are all questions that are currently being addressed and we do not believe public discussion at this time is appropriate."

"As we have said, a possible meeting between a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the United States is one of the suggestions that has been proposed," the deputy spokesman said. "We have been evaluating this and other suggestions, weighing particularly how they would advance the parties towards direct negotiations between the Arabs and the Israelis."

A senior Palestinian official was quoted as saying Wednesday that any attempt to solve the Palestinian problem without the participation of the PLO would fail.

"Any attempt by the United States or Israel to talk to Palestinians outside the PLO is doomed as there is no Palestinian willing to start a dialogue outside the PLO context," PLO Executive Committee member Jawad Al Ghusein told Reuters.

Mr. Ghusein, who attended talks here Tuesday between His Majesty King Hussein and Mr. Arafat, added: "If they (the U.S. and Israel) want a peace that can be enforced, they will have to deal with the PLO. This is the choice of Palestinians."

Mr. Arafat, who arrived here Tuesday, told reporters upon his arrival that he had no knowledge of the formation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which includes PNC members for a dialogue with Washington.

Prior to his departure for Peking Wednesday, Mr. Arafat met with Chinese ambassador to Jordan Huang Shixie to discuss his visit. He also met with representatives of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) staff and Palestinian refugees in Jordan to discuss a reported decision by the agency to impose cuts in its budget for services offered to Palestinian refugees in the Kingdom (See page 3).

Egypt not to extradite Numeiri, report says

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti newspaper Wednesday said Egypt had rejected a request from Sudan to extradite deposed President Jafar Numeiri to face public trial.

The Arabic daily Al Rai Al Aam quoted an Egyptian Foreign Ministry official as saying: "The Egyptian leadership does not intend to deliver Numeiri to Sudan, now or in the future."

General Abdul Rahman Swaraddah, leader of Sudan's Transitional Military Council, sought Numeiri's return "according to the wishes of the Sudanese people," it said, but did not specify what charges might be levelled against the former leader.

Sudan had been told Numeiri would enjoy rights normally given to those who sought political asylum, it said in a report from Cairo.

The daily reported that Sudan had told Egypt the issue would have a bearing on relations between the two states. Numeiri had recently been moved from Cairo to a residence in Alexandria, it added.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19

MAIN CHANNEL

17:00 Koran
17:30 Cartoons
17:35 Children Programmes
18:05 Walt Disney
19:00 Local Programme
19:25 Programme Review
19:35 Week's Event
20:00 News in Arabic
20:40 Arabic Series
21:20 Local Programme
22:00 Tomorrow's Programme
22:10 Arabic Film
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Film Contd.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le Theatre de Boulevard
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Charles in Charge
21:00 Towards 2000
21:10 All The Rivers Run
21:40 News in English
22:15 Dempsey and Makepeace

RADIO JORDAN
NS KHZ, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.0 KHz, SW
Tel. 774111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show
11:00 News in Arabic
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session Contd.
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:15 Talking Points
14:15 Concert Hour
15:00 News Summary
15:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 25 Years of Rock
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Special Feature
18:30 From the Holy Koran
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Contd.
21:55 News Summary
22:00 News Summary
23:05 Evening Show Contd.
23:57 News Headlines
24:00 Close down

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by Samira Badran at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* An art exhibition by the friends of the handicapped club of the University of Jordan at the University.

* An exhibition of paintings by Gulesn Sleem at Petra Bank Gallery.

* A Jordanian-Russian stamp exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL WEEK

* Palestinian Cultural Week at Baqan Camp Youth Centre.

FILM FESTIVAL

* The American Film Week "The Late Show" directed by Robert Benton at 8 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

PARTY

* The Ukas Club (British graduates) will hold a dinner dance party at 19:00 p.m. at the Hotel Jordan International on the occasion of the club's 4th anniversary.

VIDEO

* "Les Barrages de Nouvelle Guinee" at 19:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 661026/7
American Centre 44371
British Council 6361478
French Cultural Centre 637009
Goethe Institute 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre 642033
Spanish Cultural Centre 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Hussein Youth City 967181
Y.W.C.A. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 636111
University of Jordan Library 943555

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz

07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning News Summary 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline 10:30 VOA Morning News 10:40 Newsline 11:00 News 11:10 Newsline 11:30 VOA Morning News 11:40 Newsline 12:00 News 12:10 Newsline 12:30 VOA Morning News 12:40 Newsline 13:00 News 13:10 Newsline 13:30 VOA Morning News 13:40 Newsline 14:00 News 14:10 Newsline 14:30 VOA Morning News 14:40 Newsline 15:00 News 15:10 Newsline 15:30 VOA Morning News 15:40 Newsline 16:00 News 16:10 Newsline 16:30 VOA Morning News 16:40 Newsline 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 VOA Morning News 17:40 Newsline 18:00 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 VOA Morning News 18:40 Newsline 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 VOA Morning News 19:40 Newsline 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 VOA Morning News 20:40 Newsline 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 VOA Morning News 21:40 Newsline 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline 22:30 VOA Morning News 22:40 Newsline 23:00 News 23:10 Newsline 23:30 VOA Morning News 23:40 Newsline 24:00 News

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

08:00 Koran
08:30 Cartoons
09:00 Children Programmes
09:30 Walt Disney
10:00 Local Programme
10:25 Programme Review
10:35 Week's Event
11:00 News in Arabic
11:40 Arabic Series
12:20 Local Programme
13:00 Tomorrow's Programme
13:10 Arabic Film
14:00 News in Arabic
14:10 Film Contd.

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19:30 News in Hebrew
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21:00 Towards 2000
21:10 All The Rivers Run
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22:15 Dempsey and Makepeace

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.0 KHz, SW

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21:05 Evening Show Contd.
21:55 News Summary
22:00 News Summary
23:05 Evening Show Contd.
23:57 News Headlines
24:00 Close down

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (06) 5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:15 Baghdad (RO)
10:30 Agaba (RJ)
10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:45 Kuwait (RJ)
10:45 Jeddah (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
11:00 Dhahran (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (RJ, MEA)
11:45 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
12:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
12:50 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:35 Kuwait (KU)
14:45 Vienna, New York (RJ)
16:45 Baghdad (IA)
17:15 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (IA)
17:40 Larnaca (RJ, MEA)
18:05 Athens, Damascus (RJ)
18:25 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
22:35 London, Larnaca, (BA)
23:20 Cairo (MS)
01:10 Beirut (RJ)
01:45 Cairo (RJ)

DEPARTURES

06:20 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
06:45 Cairo (RJ)
08:00 Beirut (RJ, MEA)
08:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
10:30 Athens, New York (RJ)
12:15 Agaba, Cairo (RJ)
12:15 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
12:30 Athens (RJ)
13:00 Paris, London (RJ)
13:20 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
14:00 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
14:50 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:35 Larnaca (CY)
16:00 Qazari, Riyadh (RJ)
18:15 Baghdad (IA)
19:00 Bucharest (RO)
20:30 Kuwait (RJ)
20:40 Doha, Muscat (RJ)
21:10 Baghdad (RJ)
21:15 Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:45 Cairo (RJ)

AMMAN AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

18:30 Agaba (RJ)
18:45 Beirut (RJ, MEA)
18:45 Cairo (RJ)
19:00 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
19:00 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
19:00 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
19:00 Kuwait (KU)
19:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
19:00 Baghdad (IA)
19:00 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (IA)
19:00 Larnaca (RJ, MEA)
19:00 Athens, Damascus (RJ)
19:00 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
19:00 London, Larnaca, (BA)
19:00 Cairo (MS)
19:00 Beirut (RJ)
19:00 Cairo (RJ)

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06:20 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
06:45 Cairo (RJ)
08:00 Beirut (RJ, MEA)
08:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
10:30 Athens, New York (RJ)
12:15 Agaba, Cairo (RJ)
12:15 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
12:30 Athens (RJ)
13:00 Paris, London (RJ)
13:20 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
14:00 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
14:50 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:35 Larnaca (CY)
16:00 Qazari, Riyadh (RJ)
18:15 Baghdad (IA)
19:00 Bucharest (RO)
20:30 Kuwait (RJ)
20:40 Doha, Muscat (RJ)
21:10 Baghdad (RJ)
21:15 Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:45 Cairo (RJ)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman Governorate 891228
Amman Civil Defence 198.199
Civil Defence Irbid 271293, 273131
Civil Defence Uweimieh 770733
Ambulance 193.775111
Amman downtown fire brigade 198
First aid 630341
Blood bank 778303
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 629600
Police rescue 192.621111, 637777
Police headquarters 639141
Traffic police 8963901
Electric power Co. 636381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints 77125/8
Queen Alia Int. Airport 5333060

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Munther Al Qarni 776258
Dr. Salim Dahboub 776751
Al Salim pharmacy 636730
Mishk pharmacy 779910
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ornat pharmacy 642757
Al Salim pharmacy 776454
Al Aidin pharmacy 772861

TAXIS:

Khayyam taxi 641541
Basman taxi 811857
Siyaha City taxi 643265
Hussein taxi 621776
Khalid taxi 664888
Al-Kooz taxi 775274

IRBID:

Dr. Raji Al Nu'aimi 274540
Halabi pharmacy 243552

ZARQA:

Dr. Mustafa Payyadh 983031
Al Hawaweh pharmacy (-)

GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111/19
Radio Jordan 774111/19
Ministry of Tourism 642311
Hotel complaints 666212
Price complaints 661176
Telephone Information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Overseas calls 17
Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 260 / 260
Banana 280 / 240
Banana (Mukammal) 240 / 210
Beans 220 / 180
Broad beans 150 / 120
Cabbage 70 / 50
Carrot 100 / 70
Cauliflower 180 / 150
Cucumber (large) 90 / 60
Cucumber (small) 160 / 130
Eggplant (large) 150 / 100
Eggplant (small) 140 / 100
Garlic 320 / 280
Grapefruit 220 / 180
Lemon 200 / 170

Mallow 340 / 300
Marrow (large) 140 / 100
Marrow (small) 220 / 190
Onion (dry) 120 / 90
Onion (green) 130 / 110
Oranges (Shamouni) 370 / 320
Parsley 100 / 100
Peas 220 / 180
Peas (American) 600 / 540
Pepper (sweet) 180 / 150
Pepper (hot) 220 / 180
Potatoes 150 / 100
Radishes 70 / 50
Spinach 130 / 100
Tomatoes 200 / 160

12:30 Beirut (RJ, MEA)

12:30 Muscat, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)

14:00 Kuwait (KU)

14:00 Cairo (RJ)

16:15 Jeddah (RJ)

17:15 Baghdad (IA)

18:00 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (IA)

18:30 Cairo (RJ)

18:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)

18:40 London, Paris (RJ)

19:00 Istanbul (RJ)

21:00 Frankfurt (LH)

21:25 Athens (RJ)

01:10 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

07:00 Larnaca, Amsterdam (KLM)
08:00 Beirut (RJ, MEA)
08:15 Agaba (RJ)
07:50 Damascus, Athens (OA)

Queen visits kindergarten, institute for deaf in Salt

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday morning visited the day-care kindergarten in Salt, which is part of the Social Development Department of Balqa Governorate. Upon her arrival Queen Noor was welcomed by Balqa Deputy Governor Jamal Al Moumami and Salt Mayor Abdul Razzak Al Nsour.

The kindergarten's principal Soulaia Haddidi briefed the Queen on the role of kindergarten, its development and services. The Queen then toured various sections of the kindergarten and saw a puppet theatre show depicting Salt's popular arts and heritage.

The kindergarten, which was established in 1979, caters for 50 children whose age group is bet-

ween one month to four years of age. The kindergarten offers these children varied programmes, books and educational teaching and also stages puppet plays as part of the kindergarten's educational policy.

Queen Noor then visited the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, where she toured the various wards of the institution which offers help to 85 students from the kindergarten class up to the third preparatory class.

Queen Noor also inspected the maintenance department at the institution in which the students practise their theory classes. At the end of her visit, Queen Noor expressed appreciation regarding the standard of services offered by the institution.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday watches children playing with educational toys during a visit to Salt kindergarten. (Petra photo)

Lawzi, Fayez, brief Czechoslovak minister on Mideast situation

AMMAN (Petra) — Czechoslovak Minister of Labour and Social Development Emilian Hamernik, who is currently in Amman on an official visit, Wednesday met with Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi for discussions on ways to promote cooperation between the two countries in parliamentary affairs. Mr. Hamernik was briefed by Mr. Lawzi on Jordan's policy which is based on a comprehensive, peaceful attitude to solve the Palestine cause.

Mr. Lawzi also discussed Jordan's initiatives to win international support for the cause and he stressed the importance of an Israeli withdrawal to the boundaries of 1967 as well as the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Hamernik was received by Lower

House Speaker Akef Al Fayez to discuss the development of relations between the two countries. Mr. Fayez explained the basics of the Jordanian political policy which he said is based on United Nations resolutions and the concept of exchange of land for peace.

Mr. Fayez also pointed out the importance of an international peace conference in which all parties concerned in the conflict should participate.

Mr. Fayez attributed the deteriorating conditions in the area to Israel's arbitrary and oppressive measures as well as Israel's refusal to abide by international resolutions and peace efforts.

He also praised Czechoslovakia's stands vis-a-vis the Arab cause and their continuous support in all international platforms and forums.

Princess Alia to open display of Jordanian-Soviet stamps

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Alia, a Jordanian-Soviet stamp exhibition will open at the Royal Cultural Centre Thursday, according to Jordan Philatelic Club member Musa Dabbas.

He said that the exhibition is being held in cooperation between the Ministry of Communications, the club and the Soviet embassy in Amman.

Princess Alia is the honorary

president of the Jordan Philatelic Club, Mr. Dabbas added.

The exhibition, which runs until May 15, includes Jordanian stamps from independence to the present day, a collection of rare stamps, a collection of stamps with errors and Soviet collectors' stamps.

A stand for the sale of recent Jordanian stamp issues will be set up during the exhibition.

Pakistani professor outlines concepts of herbal medicine

By Abdullah Hasanat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An Arab scholar has said that the healing properties of herbs have never been refuted by scientists or by modern scientific research methods. Dr. Hakim Mohammad Said, a Pakistani professor on Eastern Medicine and the first minister of Islamic medicine in Pakistan, told the Jordan Times that medical treatment using herbs is a far better treatment than modern chemicals or drugs.

He said that herbs come from nature and "nature that is wise and selective." Herbal medicine is practised by all nations; Arabs, Chinese, Indians and even Europeans, he added.

Dr. Said was born in Delhi in 1920 into a family "whose ideals are to revive Islamic medicine," he says.

He is currently participating in the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bait Foundation) meeting.

Dr. Said describes Delhi as the seat of "Arabic medicine" and it was from here that he graduated in 1939 from the College of Eastern Medicine.

Dr. Said is an advocate of studies on Islamic history, investigations of Arab manuscripts and, in particular, Islamic medical research.

He says he believes that an in-depth and detailed study of history is a must because it creates a sense of personality; "our personality which we lost by following the glow of Western civilisation."

Dr. Said says that Arabs and Muslims have left more than three million manuscripts which need to be investigated and printed. He himself has 1,000 manuscripts of which he has already investigated

and printed many, including some of the important research conducted by the Islamic scientist Al Bairouni.

Arab and Muslim scientists were the first to use analytical research which was based on practice, application, observation, analysis and documentation, Dr. Said said. He recalls that 14 Arab scientists seven centuries ago planted herbs, administered herbal remedies to patients and recorded the results.

Dr. Said says that Abu Al Qasim Al Zahrawi who lived in Andalusia, Spain, in the 9th century A.D., wrote a 30-volume book on medicine complete with illustrations of surgical instruments and including diagrams of operations.

He says that Zahrawi invented a surgical tool for the removal of tonsils and added that this instrument is still being used today in Karachi, Pakistan. An international conference of surgeons, due to be held in Karachi in December this year, will have Zahrawi's image as its emblem, he said.

Dr. Said is presently working as a consultant on Islamic medicine for the government of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti government has allocated ten million Kuwaiti dinars for an Islamic Organisation for Medical Sciences, of which Dr. Said is the vice-president.

In Karachi, Pakistan, Dr. Said has established "The City of Learning" which includes several centres for all Islamic studies, including science and medicine. He says that the city is in fact a university which will be open to all Islamic researchers on a free basis.

Dr. Said has personally contributed towards financing the university.

Scholars review contemporary issues facing Muslim World

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Leading Muslims and scholars who are participating in the Fourth Annual Conference of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bait) Wednesday continued their meetings in Amman after paying a visit to the Jordan Academy of Arabic (JAA), where JAA President Abdul Karim Khalifa and members of the academy met with the participants and briefed them on the academy's work, scientific efforts and achievements in the field of Arabisation. Also Wednesday, the committee for the encyclopaedia of Islamic civilisation held a meeting.

On the sides of the conference, which is expected to conclude today, the Jordan Times conducted interviews with a number of the Muslim scholars on their thoughts and contributions to Islamic civilisation. Following is the text of three interviews:

Sheik Issa Ibn Mohammad Al Khalifah

FORMER Bahraini Minister of Labour and Social Development and Chairman of the Bahraini Lawyers Society Sheik Issa Ibn Mohammad Al Khalifah wondered whether it was possible to mention Islamic civilisation and renaissance with the absence of an Islamic constitution, economy and education.

"Over long centuries of Islamic mandate, Muslims had different norms and values from those of our modern days," he said. Citing examples, he pointed out that Islam gave special consideration to school teachers, whereas, nowadays, teachers are dealt with as a secondary element. Another example, he said, is evident in the fact that all Muslims used to have special family doctors, while nowadays such a trend has almost completely vanished. Thus "if we make an in-depth study of our Islamic culture and heritage, we will find that a lot of things that have once prospered no longer exist."

Referring to the problem of cultural and educational identity in the Muslim World, Sheik Issa stressed that Muslims should try to solve the problems they face, especially as the sources of their culture have been diversified and a mixture of Islamic culture with modern Western trends is needed to cope with built-in controversy.

He pointed out that a basic factor that should be employed for reaching a bright future by Muslim youth can be obtained through providing them with the basics of Islamic culture and education which would shield them against the negative aspects of the Western culture and which would render them capable of distinguishing between good and evil.

Sheik Issa said that throughout the history of Islam, and even 1400 years ago, Islamic culture was somehow affected by other cultures, particularly the Greek and Roman cultures. Therefore, Muslims should be sufficiently fortified to distinguish between what will harm them and what will lead to their progress. He expressed hope in the future of the Muslim generation, saying that our life has been much better than that of our fathers and that our sons will have a brighter one.

With regard to *Ijtihad*-pre-assumption, Sheik Issa said that it is a basic need since Islam believes in renovation, but I am against *Ijtihad*

in the context of the Holy Quran and the Hadith (Prophet Mohammad's saying).

"An important issue hindering the progress of *Ijtihad* is the fact that Islam is nowadays alienated from political authority. Elaborating on this issue, he said that the Sheikhs of Islam are trying "to pull the Islamic nation and the Umma backwards, whereas our generation wants to carry Islam forward."

He pointed out that Islam, due to political authority practices, has departed with a lot of people and Muslims feel that they are being oppressed by the rulers. Such oppression, he added, has led to the creation of "extremist Islamic trends that work in reaction to oppression."

"Democracy in the Arab World has vanished; this is a bad sign that contradicts with Islam," Sheik Issa said. Why should not I stand up and express my opinion loudly? Why do I have to be beaten on the head if I say what I believe?

In reply to a question on the status of women in Bahrain, Sheik Issa said that "Bahraini women perform half of the jobs available and that women have reached a developed stage of professional competition with men in the manpower sector," which, he said, is an excellent sign, especially since Islam has never been against women working for the benefit of society.

Ismael Balic

Dr. Ismael Balic, a member of the academy and Professor at the Institute of History for Arab-Islamic Sciences at the University of Frankfurt, West Germany, questioned whether Islam as a religion "is regressing or has it really entered the renaissance stage?" He added that Muslims should be more creative and that Islam should be a religion with "free thought," especially since "extremist Muslims have created a bad image of Islam."

He stressed that Muslim nations should be the leaders in this world and that Islam should not regress to the "Middle Ages," which was a period of decline in Islam.

"One of the major attacks on Islam by other religions is the accusation that Islam is against human rights, and the freedom of women. I refute these accusations a million times because Islam is for the freedom of women and the sacredness of human rights" said Dr. Balic.

Concerning the veil Muslim women wear, he said that it was an important cover for women during the past and that it acted as "protection" from men. But today, wearing a veil is not compulsory, he added.

Praising the modernists and their approach to Islam, Dr. Balic said that the traditionalists should be more flexible and should try to use the teachings of Islam as a solution to the many conflicts which threaten our societies due to the influences of westernisation and industrialisation, he said.

He affirmed that if "one probes into the holy text of the Koran, I am sure we will be able to solve all our problems, even the most crucial which is the problem of the Holy Land under occupation."

"The main obstacle which has been hindering the development

of Islamic nations is the fact that we lack an original Islamic thought and intellect," he said, adding that Europeans have progressed because "they think more seriously". He called for following the example of Muslim Caliphs who he said were creative in accordance with Islamic teachings.

He stressed that no progress will be made unless "a psychological change in the position of our people is envisaged."

Dr. Balic, who is a Yugoslav Muslim, said that in Germany there are currently 1,700,000 Muslims, mainly Turks who are working in the country, but he added that German people still have a very distorted idea about Islam and that Muslims face a lot of difficulties because Islam is not legally recognised in Germany.

Dr. Balic, who has lived in Austria for more than 40 years, says that Muslims in Austria have many religious facilities which include mosques, and Imams. He pointed out that radio and television could be used in teaching the basics of Islam since there are more than 70,000 Muslims in the country.

He said that Islam as a religion has its values and that Muslims have to accept Islam's teachings and morals. "Muslims today should try and live a modern life whilst retaining the Islamic teachings and morals," he said.

Dr. Balic, who has been invited to lecture in various parts of the world, said that his speaking tours were a success and managed to correct some basic misconceptions about Islam basically because "I base my explanations on modern methods and in an attractive context," he said.

Dr. Balic praised King Hussein saying "he is a King who thinks and this has helped Jordan to become an excellent example of an Islamic country."

Asked about the situation in Iran and the measures taken in the name of Islam, Dr. Balic said that "too much religion and in such an extreme manner is wrong."

Maqbul Ahmad

Professor at the University of Aligarh, India, Maqbul Ahmad, who is also a corresponding member of the Academy, said that "Islam does not impede the development of society, and there are certain practices which all Muslims should carry out: to believe in God and abide by the Prophet's teachings and the doctrines of Islam."

The purpose of the Academy is to study medieval Islam in order to revitalise the aspects that improve today's life. Pointing out that he is against the use of a veil by women, Dr. Ahmad said that with time, we will realise what is wrong and right.

Dr. Ahmad is totally against mixing religion with politics and expressed his belief that religion is our own private concern whereas politics is organically related to different concepts of independence, economics, culture and society. Moreover, Islam should not be used to achieve "personal ends," he noted.

Citing examples of different uses of *Ijtihad*, he said the Iraq-Iran war is expressive of the misconception of *Ijtihad*, where politics and *Ijtihad* are mixed up to serve timely ends, which should never happen. He pointed out that we need "*Ijtihad* in the Muslim's everyday social life."

UNRWA staff, refugees, seeking increased aid, stage 'solidarity' sit-in

Messages to Rydbeck, Arafat, De Cuellar, Rifai and Klibi request urgent assistance

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A sit-in was staged Wednesday by staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) at its field office in Amman as delegates and messages were sent to concerned international and local parties in a bid to reverse an UNRWA decision to reduce services to refugees this year.

A gathering of approximately 70 people, including UNRWA executive committee members, representatives and a number of Palestinian dignitaries, peacefully waited for answers to their queries.

One of the group told the Jordan Times that the sit-in was meant to support UNRWA Commissioner General Olof Rydbeck in his appeals for international grants to balance the agency's budget.

"This sit-in does not mean that we are against UNRWA policy. All we are after is to gain solidarity for Mr. Rydbeck's efforts to save UNRWA," the source said.

At noon, a delegation met Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat who said that he supported the sit-in and promised efforts to try and solve their problems. Mr. Arafat told the delegation that he would exert all efforts in order that UNRWA maintains its services to refugees.

Mr. Arafat said: "I have contacted some Scandinavian countries and they promised to pay differentials in exchange rates which amount to \$2 million. I also contacted Japan and the European Economic Community countries and we are waiting for their answers. There has also been a request to the United States via international channels."

Mr. Arafat said that the U.S. promised UNRWA that if a \$15 million is collected from international countries, the U.S. would provide \$12 million. UNRWA requires a minimum of \$27 million to cover a deficit in its 1985 budget.

The demonstrators delivered a message to Mr. Arafat in which they reminded him of a promise he once gave that "we will never permit the closedown of a school or a child to be thrown in the streets."

The message said that the next few days will witness a meeting of the UNRWA administration in which further procedural steps are

expected to be disclosed. The new measures aim to reduce the basic services and programmes provided to Palestinian refugees, especially in Jordan where the largest number of refugees are located, the letter said. The messages also said that any reduction in UNRWA basic services would eventually liquidate the Palestinian cause.

In a letter sent to Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, the protesters said that the sit-in represents their last hope to convince UNRWA to drop a scheme of austerity measures which will lead to a gradual reduction in services until they reached a stage where they became totally taken.

They appealed to Mr. Rifai to support their demands, since they said attempts have been made to solve the problem via negotiations with UNRWA officials, but that no reaction was forthcoming. At the end of the letter, the protesters asked to meet Mr. Rifai and to personally brief him on the situation.

United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi were also sent two separate letters asking them to personally intervene and to request concerned countries to fulfil their financial commitments to UNRWA.

The letters denounced several countries' reductions in their contributions to UNRWA and said that these reductions are "due to political motives."

"In spite of the critical financial situation of UNRWA and Mr. Rydbeck's appeals to the concerned countries to maintain their normal contributions, no solid action was taken to relieve the situation," the letters said.

They said that if no prompt measures were taken to cover the deficit, all services to Palestinian refugees will "collapse" and UNRWA will go on with its "austerity measures" which are inevitable due to the circumstances.

Another letter was sent to Mr. Rydbeck who arrived in Amman

Tuesday for talks with senior Jordanian officials on UNRWA's financial situation.

The text of the letter is as follows:

While UNRWA's staff and the refugees appreciate the efforts the commissioner general exerts to close the deficit and while they hope the efforts will continue until the present crisis has been overcome so that the agency could continue offering its services in full to the refugees, which are now at minimum levels, the refugees and UNRWA staff representatives hereby submit to you the following fair demands hoping that you would arrange for meeting these demands:

To continue efforts and contacts with the contributing states with a view to closing the deficit.

To announce the financial position three months at least before resorting to any measures which would affect the services.

To refrain from making any reductions in the programmes of services offered to the refugees until such measures have been considered by the international community through the General Assembly of the United Nations.

To give assurance concerning the compliance with the agreements concluded between the administration and the staff.

To fill the vacant posts because it is the staff who suffer additional burdens of work.

To stop abolishing which means additional burdens of work and which would affect the level of services offered to the refugees.

To give assurance that the staff's acquired rights, especially suspended rights, are considered as debts which UNRWA would eventually fulfil.

To ensure that the norms of work at UNRWA are in line with those in the local labour market and in accordance with the results of surveys.

To work for the improvement of the conditions of service relating to the separation benefits as confirmed by the survey conducted by the Buck Commission on the local markets in the fields of operation.

To see to it that pay increases are granted in the light of the cost of living index as agreed upon in the memoranda of agreement between the administration and the staff.

To take into consideration the pay increases granted by the Jordan government to its employees as stipulated in the agreements between the agency and its staff.

All the letters were signed by refugee representatives and UNRWA staff representatives.

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Jordan Times



The balance and Mr. Shultz

THE U.S. secretary of state's planned visit to Jordan, Egypt and Israel this week appears to be taking on an importance all of its own, seemingly unrelated to the substance of U.S. policy in the Middle East. Perhaps this is not such a strange thing, in view of America's traditional preference for form over substance in this part of the world.

Before making up his mind on the trip, Mr. Shultz had consistently maintained that he would come to Jordan and other Arab countries only if his visit could contribute substantially to the cause of Arab-Israeli peace. He put himself in a position then of having to show progress when he made the trip and of indicating the lack for possibilities for movement if he did not.

Our feeling is that Mr. Shultz and the rest of the Reagan administration have so far shown a great deal of political shortsightedness in their way of dealing with the Palestinian people and their legitimate representatives.

If the secretary of state, in his expected tour, comes to repeat the same American theme about the PLO and the Arab position on peace talks, he should expect that his trip will in no way achieve positive results. If, however, he comes to the Middle East determined to address the central issues and indicate his willingness to meet the Arabs half-way in formulating a peace strategy that could be supported by all the parties, he would be welcomed with open arms. The last thing we need is another U.S. official who will talk nonsense while in office, only to write in his memoirs a few years later that Washington should deal with the PLO and the new Jordan-PLO accord because the PLO is clearly the only genuine representative of the Palestinian people and the Feb. 11 agreement is indeed the last chance for peace in the Holy Land.

Our hope is that Mr. Shultz will arrive here armed with a new sense of realism and fairness, just like that which he said he detected on the Arab side over the past few months. The change of attitude is necessary so that some badly-needed progress can be made to push the peace process forward. But if he comes here carrying the same old line of American policy in the area, he will get nowhere. The choice may be difficult, but it is crucial and terribly important for the future of the Middle East.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Joint Arab efforts needed

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN returned to Amman Tuesday after a two-day tour of the Gulf region following his visit to Iraq and his talks with President Saddam Hussein. No doubt King Hussein discussed with the leaders of the three countries ways to consolidate Arab solidarity and to coordinate joint efforts behind the Jordanian-Palestinian accord signed in Amman on Feb. 11. If the accord is to succeed, it has to be backed by Arab countries because the accord was based mainly on the Arab summit resolutions adopted at Fez in addition to the U.N. Security Council resolutions passed over the years. The joint Arab effort is required to counteract the Zionist practices in the occupied Arab territories and to enable the Arab Nation stand up to the challenges imposed on it from the enemies and external forces hostile to the Arab World. King Hussein who has devoted his life for the Palestine problem and for ensuring a pan-Arab solidarity realises that several obstacles still stand in the way and therefore, more of his efforts are needed. He also realises that the Zionist plans for Judaizing Arab territories and perpetuating occupation cannot be thwarted unless Arabs unify their ranks and work for the common goal. To back King Hussein's efforts, a Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation will be touring several world nations explaining the Amman accord and calling for the establishment of peace in implementation of U.N. resolutions.

Al Dustour: Time to realise

PERHAPS THE political stalemate in Lebanon and the total paralysis of the Rashid Karami government present the gravest danger that impedes a solution to the Lebanese crisis. The year-old government which is supposed to be a national salvation one, grouping the leaders of the major political parties and the heads of the warring factions in Lebanon, has so far failed to ease tension and to end the fighting in Beirut that has taken the life of many innocent civilians. The problem is continuously being complicated with the on-going war in the south, the displacement of many Christian and Muslim inhabitants and the wide-scale devastation witnessed there as a result of the factional fighting. The whole situation is discouraging and everybody is at a loss as to what should be done. All the external forces involved in one way or another in Lebanon's affairs have now retreated after suffering defeat, and after being further frustrated with the behaviour of the Lebanese factions who seem determined to destroy their own country. There is no one who can help except the Lebanese themselves who should take the initiative now and bring an end to the fighting, and pave the way for a national reconciliation. The Lebanese should realise that their present behaviour can lead nowhere but to further loss and destruction.

Sawt Al Shaab: A real chance for peace

JORDAN AND the Palestine Liberation Organisation are now about to launch a joint diplomatic offensive aimed at canvassing support from world nations for their joint accord signed in Amman on Feb. 11. The offensive is aimed at orienting these nations on the real situation in the occupied Arab lands and the sufferings of the Arab population under Israeli rule. The two sides are seeking to establish a lasting and just peace, in implementation of U.N. resolutions and in harmony with the resolutions of the Arab Fez summit. King Hussein's tour of the Gulf region marks the beginning of this offensive which is deemed necessary to win full backing of Arab countries to the joint moves. The Amman accord has no doubt provided a firm background for the joint effort, but the two sides have to follow it up world-wide to achieve their aspired goals. Jordan and the Palestinians are the most affected parties from the Zionist occupation and, therefore, it was up to them to make the move, but their endeavour should be backed by all those interested in seeing peace achieved in this area. A few days ago, King Hussein made it clear in a message to the National Association of Arab Americans that there exists a real chance for peace at present, and that this opportunity should not be missed if the world is to avoid more wars and destruction.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

American congressmen now talk with Arafat

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — Readers of the New York Times must have been startled in reading a commentary by William Safire on April 11, 1985. Mr. Safire is an ardent pro-Zionist, more ardent even than Israel's usual enthusiastic supporters in the U.S. He was an influential "speech-writer" for Richard Nixon and wrote a major book on the Nixon administration. He represents a small but powerful voice on the political right among American Jews. He has long urged for a military alliance between the U.S. and Israel.

Mr. Safire wrote: "... if we continue to finance the welfare state in Israel, the grateful 'moderates' there will put into effect Washington's evenhanded imposition of a settlement with the Arab World. That is why supporters of the Arab cause in Washington

want Israel to get its quick financial fix; that is why many of Israel's usual defenders here resist the temporary relief of a debilitating handout."

This language has to be translated a bit for non-American readers. Mr. Safire here is simply saying that the U.S. government is now trying to buy off Israel in return for acceptance of U.S. policy goals. And that the pro-Arab elements in the U.S. government know that buying off Israel with more billions in help will get the Israelis to acquiesce to concessions. And consequently, Mr. Safire is warning the defenders of the Zionist cause this time to resist giving of more aid.

Israel is getting out of Lebanon before Syria. There is little doubt here that the Labour-Likud regime did so on American pressure. Naturally

they are doing everything in their power to leave Lebanon in chaos and the world shall see more tricks before the last Israeli soldier leaves Lebanese soil. But they are leaving.

Washington's "Arabists," as Mr. Safire likes to call them, have long wanted a return to a united Lebanon. In 1958, the U.S. sent in Marines to force an end to conflict. This time, the U.S. has been forced to let Damascus play the key role. There has not been the slightest criticism of Syria in Washington, and Damascus has been clever enough not to create incidents which the enemies of the Arab World in Washington would quickly have pounced on to dramatise.

We can only wait and see and hope that the killing will end in Lebanon and that unity will again come to that country. But

now the spotlight is once again shifting toward the Palestinian issue. What do the "Arabists" want in regard to the Palestinian issue? Presumably Washington still accepts Security Council Resolution 242. But Washington's aims in the Middle East obviously go beyond that.

The "Arabists" want an Arab World in all its diversity linked to the U.S. much the same way China now is. They regard three conditions as vital for that: (1) that the Soviet Union gain no further influence in the Arab World and especially not in the Gulf states; (2) that Lebanon be united and in friendly Arab hands; and (3) that the Palestinian issue be resolved. Number three is the vaguest for obvious reasons.

But the so-called "Pal-

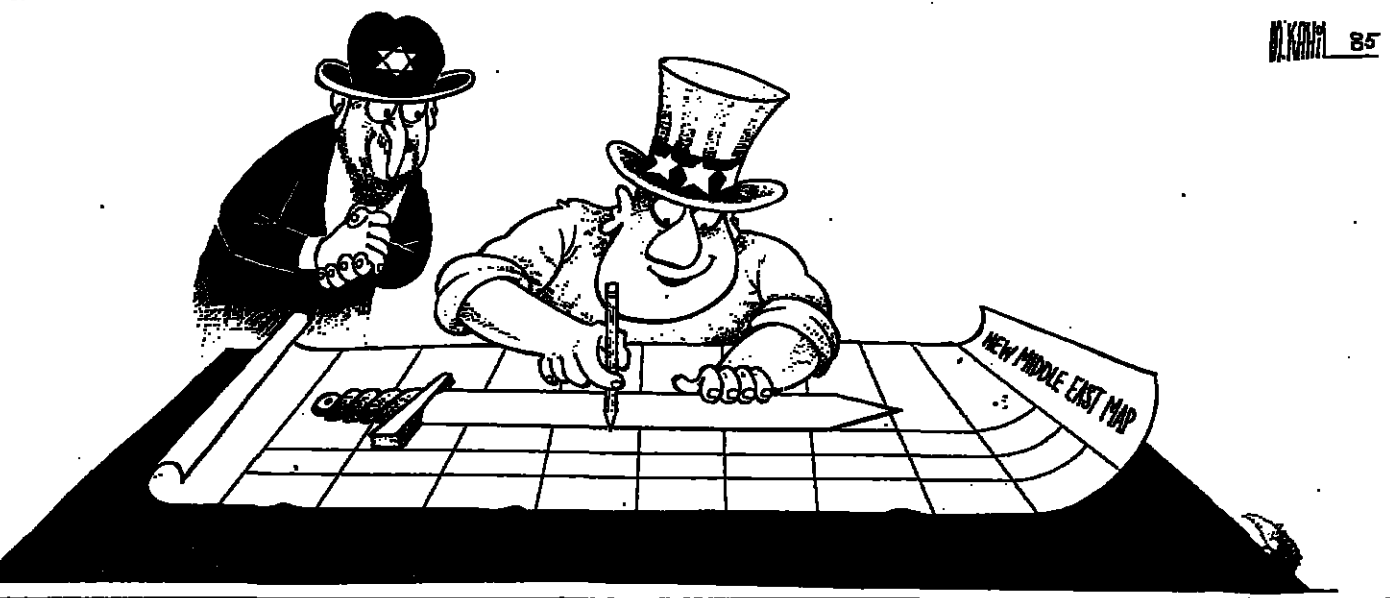
estinian issue" is much like the Taiwan issue. Washington opposes a takeover of Taiwan by mainland China. On the other hand, such a takeover is impossible now. Yet at the same time, Washington would like to see the Peking-Taipei entity end. So with Israel and the Palestinians, Washington would like the Palestinians and the Arabs to say, openly, that Israel is a fact that can not be wished away. But while most Arabs understand political realities as well as anyone else, they also know that Israel is a cunning and deceitful foe. They know Israel will do anything not just to preserve its own power but to create as much trouble as it can in the Arab World. The Israelis devoutly believe in the old Roman slogan: Divide and rule.

We all know that there is a

lot of maneuvering going on between all the parties involved. The battlefields have shifted to the corridors of power and they are as cruel and trying as when weapons are fired at human targets. Mr. Safire is warning Zionists in America to be careful that Israel does not drown in a flood of American dollars. Because in a moment of weakness it could make concessions on the West Bank that could set a Palestinian process going and going that could conceivably go quite far.

In American politics what counts is power plus legitimacy. The Palestinians may have lost a lot of power but in recent years that have gained in legitimacy. After all, American Congressmen are now talking with Yasser Arafat even though they hide their faces from photographers.

Arab News



Controversy over White House secrecy

By Charles Aldinger

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration is under increasing attack over secrecy and censorship, drawing criticism from scientists, university officials and the news media.

Seeds of the conflict were sown by President Reagan shortly after he took office in 1981, with a drive to stem leaks of military secrets and cut Soviet access to Western high technology.

It heated up last month with media charges that the White House was increasingly restricting access to a broad range of non-strategic information and even considering asking Congress to pass an Official Secrets Act, like the one in Britain.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes has strongly denied that the administration is seeking to bar journalists' access to information. But other administration officials have argued that sensitive information must be protected at any cost.

In a panel discussion at the National Press Club Friday, Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Perle defended the view of many conservatives that even exchange visits by Soviet and U.S. scientists serve little purpose other than to

help Moscow gain information for its military buildup.

Mr. Perle attacked the National Academy of Sciences in Washington for promoting an increase in exchanges and called for "a bit more judgement and common sense" from the scientific community.

But former Pentagon official William Perry told the panel that "the introduction of censorship, of security issues, in basic science would be a big mistake."

Mr. Perry, a former undersecretary of defence for research and engineering, and Bobby Ray Inman, former head of the National Security Agency, agreed that sometimes the Pentagon was too zealous in attempting to curb the flow of information.

Two journalists' groups, the Washington-based Reporters Committee on Freedom of the Press and the White House Correspondents Association, say restrictions have gone much further than simply clamping down on strategic information.

The Reporters Committee last month released a long list of executive actions it said had been taken in the past four years to restrict media access to basic information.

"The Reagan administration policies are causing the most sig-

nificant media access restrictions on government information since the end of voluntary censorship in World War II," said Jack Landau, executive director of the group.

The committee charged that the administration was planning to ask Congress for new restrictions, including an Official Secrets Act, and tighten sections of the freedom of information act dealing with access to news on law enforcement, organized crime and health and consumer problems.

The Correspondents' Association last week published a report charging that secret service agents were under orders to bar reporters from access to the president and top White House officials.

Even senior White House correspondents had been subjected to the harassment of repeated searches under the guise of security during presidential trips, the report charged.

Asked to comment, an administration official told Reuters the adversarial relationship between the media and the White House was traditional and had occurred in past administrations.

"They think we see them as leftists — liberals who want to print everything no matter what it is," said the official, who asked not to be identified.



"That's simply not true. But the media is aggressive in its job. Sometimes the government has to be aggressive in protecting certain information which could be harmful to national security."

Mozambique rebels derail Malawi's trade

Mozambique's guerrilla war has cut its landlocked neighbour's short route to the sea. This transport disaster is costing Malawi \$50 million a year. Patti Waldmeir, recently in Lilongwe, reports.

THE ECONOMY of landlocked Malawi, which is weathering Africa's economic crisis better than most on the continent, is under strain because of serious transport problems which are disrupting trade and putting heavy pressure on the country's balance of payments.

The escalating guerrilla war in neighbouring Mozambique over the past year has severed both of Malawi's traditional lifelines to the sea, leaving the tiny central African country without a rail link to a sea port.

Traditionally, some 90 per cent of Malawi's trade used either the 1,600 kilometre line to the Mozambican port of Beira, or the alternative rail route to the Nacala port in Mozambique, 1,400 kilometres away. By April last year, rebel attacks and deteriorating quality of track had virtually closed both these routes, leaving Malawi dependent for the bulk of its exports and imports on an unreliable and expensive 4,000 kilometre road and rail route to the South African port of Durban.

The impact of disruptions has reverberated throughout the economy. Import costs have risen, putting a strain on consumers and domestic industry which has also been forced to hold abnormally high inventories of imported goods. Petrol and diesel have periodically been in short supply, with

motorists complaining of long queues at petrol stations earlier this year.

The tea and tobacco industries, which provide about 70 per cent of foreign exchange earnings, have seen profitability eroded by the effect of escalating transport costs.

The sugar industry faces an immediate crisis as world market prices fall below the cost of transporting Malawi's sugar to buyers outside the region.

Overall, the government estimates that the closure of the Beira and Nacala routes is costing the economy some \$50 million per year in higher import costs and lower export receipts. The Malawi Chamber of Commerce estimates that transport costs for most commodities are now as much as three times their former levels.

Tobacco, Malawi's number one export crop, now costs kwacha 0.40 (24 U.S. cents) per kilogramme to transport to Durban compared with kwacha 0.15-0.16 per kg to Nacala.

Deliveries of fertiliser, crucial to the agricultural sector which contributes about 40 per cent of GDP and 90 per cent of exports, have often been delayed by uncertain transport while the cost of transporting fertiliser has risen more than fourfold.

Hopes that the Nkomati accord between Mozambique and South Africa last year might reduce at-

tacks by South African-backed Renamo guerrillas in Mozambique have fallen flat; rebel activity continues to escalate, leaving Mozambique with no choice but to plan long-term transport alternatives.

Businessmen and diplomats say the government has acted promptly to ease bottlenecks. Construction of a link road through northern Malawi to the Tazara rail line in Tanzania has opened up a new northern transport corridor to the port of Dar es Salaam which runs about 2,000 kilometres off the trip to the sea, although many exporters and importers are worried by the notorious inefficiencies of both the port and rail line.

Plans are in hand to build up a domestic road transport fleet (Malawi now relies almost entirely on foreign hauliers) with the help of foreign aid funds and foreign private capital.

Petrol storage facilities within the country are being improved. At the moment, however, Malawi is dependent for the bulk of imports and exports on two alternative routes to Durban: by road to either Harare in Zimbabwe or Lusaka, Zambia, and onward by rail to the port. However, the road route to Harare through Tete in Mozambique continues under rebel attack despite the fact that it is guarded by the Zimbabwean army; delays are common on the Zambian route, where economic recession has led to a shortage of lorries and locomotive power.

Malawi's sugar industry, the country's third largest foreign exchange earner, has been hardest hit by the disruption. Jointly owned by the Louro Group of the U.K. and the Malawi government, the industry has seen transport costs increase beyond the depressed world market price for sugar, making it uneconomical for the country to export outside its limited quota markets in the U.S. and EC.

By the end of last year, about 131,000 tonnes of sugar were held in stock (total production in 1984 was 156,000 tonnes) and the country's second largest sugar estate, the kwacha 70 million Dwangwa project, has been unable to service its debts.

Tobacco industry officials say high transport costs have put a heavy burden on their finances, when the world market is relatively weak and when many estates are still burdened by heavy debts from the 1970s.

Even the tea industry, which enjoyed its best year last year with receipts doubling due to high world prices, is under pressure.

Near-term prospects for reopening the Nacala and Beira lines appear bleak, as guerrilla attacks have recently halted improvement work on the container terminal at Nacala, and the security situation threatens to interrupt the \$200 million rehabilitation of the rail line to Nacala as well — Financial Times news feature.

LETTERS

Thanks, Your Majesties

To the Editor:
ON BEHALF of the National Association of Arab-Americans (NAAA), chapter-Amman, I am writing to express our appreciation for the recent efforts of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor to keep the American public informed of their responsibilities in the Middle East. We have been especially delighted that His Majesty was able to address the NAAA convention in Washington via satellite. We have also been keenly aware of Her Majesty's trip to the U.S. and felt a real sense of pride watching her address some of our finest universities in the United States. The courage to stand before those bodies, and the ability to do so with conviction and dignity is an inspiration to us all.

Karen Asfour
President, NAAA chapter Amman.

List of candidates for Portuguese presidency is still growing

By David Reid

LISBON — Candidates are already lining up for elections to choose a successor to Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes — even though there are still seven months to go before the polls.

They range from politicians of international stature to a cheese merchant, a right-wing philosopher and Portugal's first woman prime minister who, like Britain's first female Premier Margaret Thatcher, is an industrial chemist.

Presidential elections are due at the end of this year, probably in late November or early December. General Eanes ends his 10-year tenure on Jan. 16 next year and cannot stand again after two terms as president.

Many political commentators tip Socialist leader and Prime Minister Mario Soares, 60, as the eventual victor, though he has still to announce his official candidature and has indicated he will not declare his position until the summer.

A new twist to the presidential stakes was added last week when former Christian Democratic leader and Deputy Prime Minister Diogo Freitas do Amaral, 43, emerged from more than two years in voluntary political seclusion to say he would run as a national, independent, "above party" candidate.

Mr. Freitas do Amaral, a law professor with a brilliant academic record, spoke of renewing the spirit of the right-wing Democratic Alliance which he forged with the late Francisco Sa Carneiro, dynamic Socialist Democratic Party leader and Prime minister who died in an air crash in December 1980.

The Social-Christian Democratic coalition subsequently withered and died. In December 1982 Mr. Freitas do Amaral resigned as leader of the Christian Democratic Party he founded after the 1974 Revolution and from the moribund government of Mr. Sa Carneiro's successor Francisco Pinto Balsemão.

His come-back caused consternation in the ranks of the Social Democrats, currently junior partners in a 21-month-old coalition with the Socialists who re-emerged as the most powerful party in the 1983 elections.

Rank-and-file Social Democratic opposition to supporting Mr. Soares as a national candidate has already caused a row inside the coalition and an internal crisis which led to the substitution of former Socialist Democratic leader and Deputy Prime Minister Carlos Mota Pinto by 44-year-old Rui Machete, former justice minister.

Mota Pinto and other Social Democrats had favoured the candidature of General Mario Fir-

mino Miguel, 53, deputy army chief of staff.

But Gen. Firmino Miguel, a former defence minister under a previous Soares administration, let it be known that he would not run and that his decision was "irrevocable".

Political observers believed the Freitas do Amaral candidature could cause even more confusion and doubts within the Social Democratic ranks, outweighing any threat to Mr. Soares' chances. Mr. Machete has already denied reports that he would join in the presidential race.

Mr. Freitas do Amaral could also take votes away from fellow-Catholic Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, 55, who served as an independent "caretaker" prime minister at the invitation of President Eanes after a government crisis in 1979.

The presidential line-up so far: — Mario Soares, first foreign minister after democracy was restored in 1974 and subsequently three times prime minister. He initiated Portugal's bid for European Community membership eight years ago and saw his efforts finally crowned with success in March when agreement on entry was signed.

— Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, intellectual, former ambassador to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), first woman prime minister of Portugal.

— Professor Diogo Freitas do Amaral, founder of the Christian Democrats shortly after the revolution.

— General Altino de Magalhães, 62, former deputy army chief of staff, currently canvassing for non-Communist support.

— Meneses Alves, 38, non-party lawyer.

— Orlando Vitorino, right-wing writer and philosopher who advocates the banning of the Communist Party and trade unions.

— Fernando Neves, 35, cheese merchant, non-party whose slogan is "We must all go to work". Among non-starters — at least so far — is former revolutionary hero Lieutenant-Colonel Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho, 48, in jail awaiting trial on charges of leading a radical left-wing urban guerrilla group. He was runner-up to General Eanes with 16.5 per cent of the popular vote in the first post-revolutionary presidential polls in 1976.

A group of about 500 supporters of Lt.-Col. Otelo who met secretly in the industrial centre of Setúbal, south of Lisbon, recently want him to run again this year, but most political observers regard such a possibility as doubtful. Lt.-Col. Otelo's trial is expected to begin next month and may drag on for some time.

Asar Al Hakim laments current cinematic standards

By Aline Koutoum

CAIRO — For the first time in 20 years, an Egyptian movie "Love at the Top of the Pyramids" has been chosen to represent Egypt at the Cannes film festival. The film is directed by Atef Al Tayeb, and the leading roles go to Ahmad Zaki and Asar Al Hakim.

Asar Al Hakim is one of the few young Egyptian actresses who have been able, in the course of the past seven years with talent, reinforced by self-confidence and an uncompromising commandment of morals and principles, to penetrate the impregnable fortress of Egyptian cinema. A visit to Asar Al Hakim's house, filled me with great love and respect for her person and her work.

At the door of her villa, I was greeted a bit too noisily by Gypsy Asar's seven-month old wolf-dog. Fortunately for me, our encounter was cut short by Asar herself who appeared at the entrance. She was wearing a simple dress, no makeup and had her hair pulled back in an untidy pony tail, her natural beauty accentuated by her modesty.

My first question to her, naturally enough, was about the movie "Love at the Top of the Pyramids". The story revolves around the financial and social problems faced by a young Egyptian couple who belong to the lower levels of the socio-economic

pyramid.

This movie is a turning point for me," she said. "I find the subject of the movie extremely interesting and important. The gloominess of the situation in which this couple finds itself is tragic — tragic because it's so real."

Asar thinks very highly of the "crew" with whom she worked. "Atef Al Tayeb loves his work immensely," she said, "and he works hard on every detail. Most importantly, he respects the work and the people who work with him."

With a note of optimism, she went on to explain that many other young and talented artists, like Al Tayeb, are now emerging "on the screen", with better movies in terms of directing, acting, screenplay and even production than the commercial movies being turned out today by many of the older generation of Egyptian film makers. "I'm very optimistic about the future," she said enthusiastically.

"This does not mean," she added, "that I prefer to work with the younger generation." Rather, her first concern is the subject of the movie, and the case that it presents. "No one can deny the greatness of people like Kamal Al Sheikh, Hussein Kamal or Salah Abou Seif," she said, referring to some of the directing giants of Egyptian cinema of the older generation.

In May, Asar will attend the



Asar Al Hakim

Cannes film festival, where for the first time since the movie "Al Haraam" (directed by Henry Barakat in the '60s — starring Faten Hamama), "Love at the Top of the Pyramids" will represent Egypt among 20 competitors from all over the world competing for the best direction award. About her feelings and expectations she said, "We are all hoping of course that our movie will win a prize. But the mere fact that it was chosen to enter such a reputable competition is a favourable acknowledgment that we are proud of."

Our conversation about Cannes and international film festival in general, led me to ask her about her ambitions for cinema outside

Egypt's borders. "When they get their chance, no one refuses to become an international star," she laughed, "and believe me, someday when I get my chance, I won't say no."

Indeed, there was no way she could say no to the small part she played in the French movie "Le Voyage" (French-Egyptian coproduction). The French director of the film saw Asar Al Hakim in the Egyptian movie "The Voyage of a Bird", which was being shown in The Three Continents Festival at Nantes, France, two years ago. "Le Voyage" was shot in Italy, Switzerland and Egypt, but it has not been released yet.

"No one would refuse to have another Omar Sherif from Egypt," Asar said. Asar says she was extremely happy that she was chosen amongst Egyptian actresses to play the part of Sherif's daughter in "Ayoub", the film with which Omar Sherif returned to Egyptian cinema after years of absence. "Before meeting Omar Sherif, I went into a trauma. I was ten times more tense and nervous than with any of my other movies," she said. Her fears, however, turned out to be quite unnecessary, for Omar Sherif was charmingly modest, helpful to everyone and a master at work. "It was a wonderful experience," she said.

I asked Asar whether there were any Egyptian artists with whom she would like to work. She

gave three names: Hussein Kamal and Ashraf Fahmy, both directors, and the actor Nour el Sherif. Internationally her favourite stars are Jane Fonda, Sylvester Stallone, better known as Rocky I, II, III, and director Dustin Hoffman. Commenting on the American cinema in general she said, "There are marvelous films being made there, there's no denying that." But at the same time she thought there were many "worthless commercial movies that were produced in the States too."

Asar seems to have an inborn dislike for science fiction movies like "Jaws" or "King Kong". She prefers both watching and working in movies that reflect a certain social value or a political message. "I would want to partake in any movie that aspires to improve the conditions in my country and share in its progress," she added.

Her personal progress came about rather smoothly, starting from TV then on to the "silver screen". She has acted in 18 movies to date. Oddly enough, her lifetime dream was to become a pop singer. She did not have much luck with her voice, but she still plays the piano. "Actually at one time I used to sing with a small pop group," she said, remembering the good old days. She also did a radio programme called "The Peep Show" on Radio Cairo, in English.

"As a matter of fact," she continued, "I have worked in several

jobs quite unrelated both to acting and to each other." The list was indeed variant; cashier, model, singer, radio announcer and waitress.

"I used to work during the summer holidays when I was still at university," she said, adding that at the time she was eager to depend on herself and have her own income. Asar graduated from the Faculty of Education (English section) of Ain Shams University.

Asar is now working in two movies. The first, "Kandil's Scissors," is directed by Adly Yousef. It will be Yousef's second movie after "Days of Challenge." Farid Shawky and Salah Al Saadany are her co-stars. The second movie is called "Top Secret," directed by Mohammad Abdul Aziz in which she plays the role of a journalist.

Asar is also determined to eventually try her talents at directing. Starting this February, she enters a two-year intensive cinema course. For the first year, she will learn about all the different areas of filmmaking, and in the second year she intends to specialise in directing.

"I believe in preserving our Egyptian traditions and values, and at the same time I believe in changing them for the better," she said.

Good luck to you Asar Al Hakim, with Cannes and all your future dreams — Arab News, Jeddah.



NEVER TOO LATE: British actress Dame Peggy Ashcroft, who won an Oscar this year for her part in "A Passage to India," has become a world star at 77.

Thousands of workers laboured hard to hand down an elaborate message

By Ursula Bunte

WHEN A start was made on raising the colossus from the ground, the stone crumbled and the giant broke into pieces. It was the largest obelisk ever constructed in Egypt. The twenty-four metre long artefact can still be seen in one of the granite quarries at Aswan, a silent witness of the incredible activity of the past.

Thousands of workers laboured in the quarries at the height of Egyptian culture. Whole expeditions, under the supervision of a royal official, were sent by the pharaoh into the desert.

The teams of quarry workers were accompanied by artisans, draughtsmen, stone-cutters, and craftsmen for transportation on the Nile.

There were also shepherds for the animals that would be slaughtered and to look after the donkeys that were the workers' means of transport.

What they created has ended up in the world's museums. What they left behind, tools and incomplete artefacts, are still to be found where they were left.

If stones could speak, the quarries would have whole novels they could narrate. Exploration of the Pharaonic kingdom and its

works of art always raises the question of the origins of the materials used. The glory of Egyptian works of art stand in glaring contrast to the simplicity of the techniques used.

The exhibition opened in Hildesheim "The Stones of the Pharaoh — From the Quarry to the Work of Art" deviates considerably from the usual way of looking at a work of art. It deals with aspects long neglected, the materials used and how they were obtained.

The exhibition is an interdisciplinary project of the Geological Institute of Munich University and the state collection of Egyptian art housed in the Bavarian capital.

A team of geologists, mineralogists and Egyptologists dug in the desert without anything. They visited over four hundred quarries, turning up the ground, hoeing the soil and smoothing down the ground surface.

Some of the quarries had, over thousands of years, been forgotten, others were in later times used as shrines. Even today a few Coptic churches shelter in what were once ancient quarries. The neglected workshops with their ravines and caverns are now remembered as military bases. Since

1977 the small crew has tested and analysed thousands of rock samples and fed the results into a data bank. The tests and analyses are available to all museums.

Egyptologist Rosemaire Klemm and her geologist husband Dietrich Klemm, led the expedition "under oriental conditions". At the opening of the Hildesheim exhibition she reported on the many rock samples that had been sent to her for analysis, even from Leipzig.

The objects made of stone that now stand in museums can now be traced back to the quarries from which they came. Minute tests, taken at significant points, can also play an important role in establishing the genuineness of the objects. The stones have begun to talk so that "the theme, neglected by Egyptology", according to Bettina Schmitz of Pelizaeus Museum, can be tackled at last.

Ancient Egypt was "a state out of stone". All constructions that were meant to last to eternity were built of stone, temples to the gods, royal death chambers, royal and private burial sites.

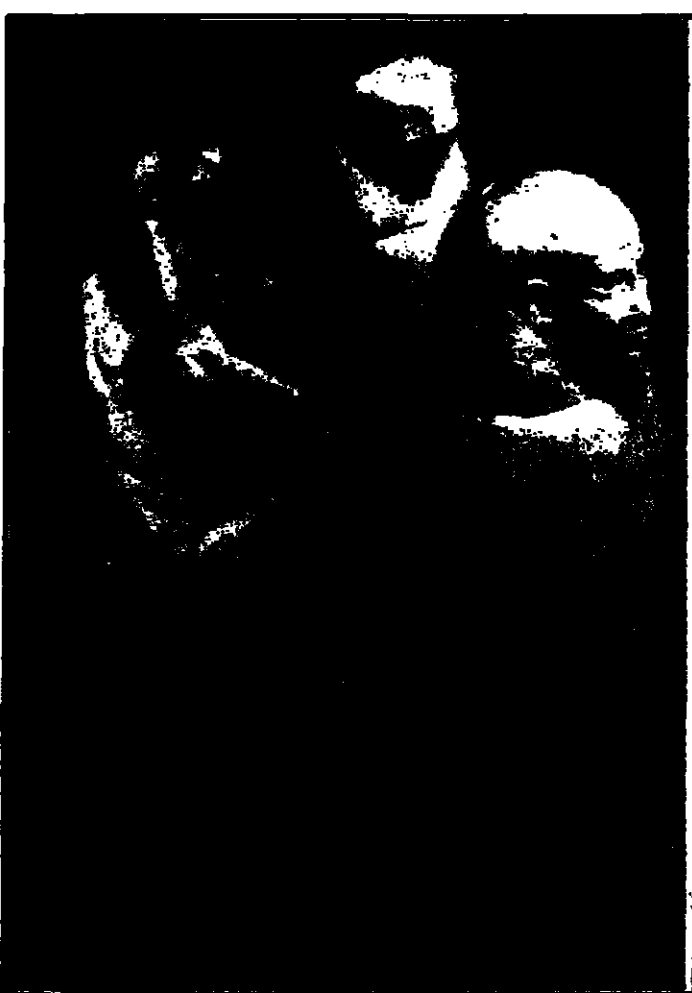
The homes of the living were made of ephemeral materials such as wattle and wood. Tufa limestone was as much favoured as

granite and basalt. Rose-coloured granite was held in particular high esteem, especially for the false doors to graves. Those who could only afford simple limestone for their last resting place, tried to colour the stone so as to give a semblance of rose-coloured granite.

The Hildesheim exhibition has on display not only reliefs and sculptures but also the tests of the stone involved and explanations of the tools used.

Details are given of the techniques used to hue the stone and the transportation problems that had to be solved.

The optical attraction of the exhibition is the jewellery and amulets made from semi-precious stone. Stone as a material for eternity also played an important role as a means of conveying the written word. Messages chiselled in stone from the Egyptians have been preserved, in temple inscriptions, in graves, on statues, on royal and private stelae and on obelisks. The Greeks, who from the seventh century before Christ visited Egypt and saw the incomprehensible inscriptions, gave these "holy signs chiselled in stone" their name — hieroglyphs — Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz.



Thirty-centimetre-high containers for the inner organs of mummified people; about 1300 B.C.

Lebanese fighter becomes movie star

By Rima Salameh
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Ibrahim Kamal, a guerrilla hero of the war against the Israelis in South Lebanon, has become the country's latest movie star — playing a resistance fighter in a film partly shot at a stone's throw away from Israeli lines.

Kamal, 24, a member of the "Amal" Movement, pays Ali, whose dashing derring-do in "The South in Revolt" leaves the screen exploits of Hollywood's heroes in the shade.

Ali fires rocket propelled grenades with unerring accuracy, blows up entire Israeli convoys, mows down columns of Israeli troops with his kalashnikov rifle, and escapes without a scratch.

After 10 years of civil war in Lebanon, with an estimated 100,000 dead and its cities turned into battlegrounds, it seems improbable that anyone would want to watch blood and guts on the screen.

But the movie's a smash in West Beirut because of the widespread support to the "Resistance Movement" that groups a variety of

religious and political forces against Israel's occupation of South Lebanon.

Youngsters only too familiar with the real-life violence in battle-scarred streets queue in blocks to the theatres to see the movie.

They cheer and jump in their seats when Ali strikes, destroying an Israeli convoy with his favourite weapon, a remote controlled roadside bomb, or defiantly refuses to talk when he's captured and tortured.

A scene showing a grinning Lebanese grandmother firing a kalashnikov assault rifle at an Israeli patrol draws thunderous applause and roars.

In the closing scene, Ali gets back at his Israeli tormentor, a colonel named Moshe, by breaking his jaw. To blaring epic music, he blows up the Israeli flag and replaces it with the red and white Lebanese banner.

Some of the movie's biggest fans are gun-toting militiamen. One pistol-packing fighter boasted: "I've seen it six times already and I'm going to see it again."

For many Lebanese, the han-

dsome, bearded Ibrahim has given a face to the shadowy resistance movement waging a hit-and-run war against the Israelis pulling back from Lebanon following their 1982 invasion.

Like Ibrahim, most of the cast of "The South in Revolt" are real-life guerrillas who took time off from the fighting to play themselves.

"The South in Revolt" was filmed in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in Eastern Lebanon, some 100 yards (meters) from Israeli lines where the shooting is in earnest.

By Hollywood standards, it was shot on a shoestring budget — 500,000 Lebanese pounds (\$31,250).

But, lamented producer-director Rida Muryassar, a veteran war moviemaker, that's big bucks for him.

"Most of the movies I've made over the last 10 years had budgets one-fifth what it cost to make this one," he said in an interview.

The Syrian army, provide much of the weaponry for the guerrillas, loaned armoured personnel carriers, tanks and rocket-propelled

grenade launchers for the movie.

Surprisingly, in a country where guns are everywhere, Muryassar complained: "We couldn't get enough ammunition for the film."

Not all the action scenes were play-acting. A woman bystander watching the final scene where Ali throws a grenade was wounded by shrapnel.

The problem was he was using a real grenade.

Ibrahim, unaccustomed to the hallyhoo of stardom after two years of life on the run dodging Israelis, boasts that he's even deadlier with his trusty RPG in real life than he is on the screen.

"I'm an even better marksman in real life," he said in an interview. "I fire RPGs and tanks rounds and hit the target without missing."

Ibrahim says his heroes are the guerrilla commanders in South Lebanon — and, not surprisingly, macho movie stars Clint Eastwood and Sylvester Stallone.

Muryassar said he made the movie as entertainment in swill encourage young men and women "to go south and fight the Israelis."

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McEnroe scores an easy victory against van Patten

NEW YORK (R) — Defending champion and favourite John McEnroe defeated fellow American Vince van Patten easily Tuesday night in first-round action in the \$615,000 Tournament of Champions.

McEnroe won the final nine games at the West Side Tennis Club for a 6-4, 6-0 victory over van Patten.

The 1984 Wimbledon and U.S. open champion is ranked number one in the world, 72 places ahead of van Patten, whose biggest victory was an upset over McEnroe in

Tokyo in 1981.

"I lost my concentration at times because fans started to yell right in the middle of my serve," said McEnroe, winner here for the past two years.

"It was difficult getting into a groove in my first outdoor match in a few months, and the wind

made it pretty tricky for my service toss," McEnroe added.

The only first-round upset was recorded by little known Marian Vajda of Czechoslovakia. The 20-year-old, ranked 122nd, ripped a dramatic forehand passing shot for a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 comeback win over American Vitas Gerulaitis, the sixth seed.

Gerulaitis, ranked 19th in the world, won the tournament in 1980 and was runner-up to McEnroe in 1983.

"I was nervous at the start," admitted Vajda, who lost in three qualifying tournaments this year.

The small Czechoslovak player fought off a 0-40 situation in the ninth game of the third set before earning the decisive break in the following game.

Aaron Krickstein, the 17-year-old American who is seeded third, defeated Austria's Hans Peter Kandler, 6-1, 6-1 in 62 minutes.

Austria boosts World Cup chances

GRAZ, Austria (R) — Austria's chances of qualifying for next year's World Cup were boosted Tuesday night when they crushed Cyprus 4-0 in a European qualifying group five soccer match.

Austria are second in the group behind Hungary and they will be relying on the Hungarians to defeat the Netherlands in the final qualifier on May 14 to stop the Dutch grabbing a place in Mexico.

Hungary, with a maximum 10 points from five matches, have already qualified.

Peter Hrstic opened the scoring for Austria in the second minute

of the match but the home side then found the 10-man Cypriot defence hard to penetrate.

It took them 34 further minutes before Toni Polster netted the second goal and Austria went into the second half 2-0 up.

Walter Schachner scored Austria's third goal in the 54th minute and Gerald Willfurth netted their fourth in the 73rd.

Cyprus missed a scoring chance in the 38th minute when Savvides evaded the defence and had goalkeeper Koncilia beaten only to see Karl Brauner scoop the ball off the goal line.

Soviets set to dominate European judo contest

HAMAR, Norway (R) — The Soviet Union, despite the surprise omission of their world featherweight champion Nikolai Solod, look set for a big haul of medals at the European Men's Judo Championships starting Thursday.

The Russians have dropped Solod in favour of unheralded

24-year-old Uri Sokolov, but otherwise have a strong squad in which world bantamweight champion Khazret Tleseri should take the gold.

France, who are traditionally the Russians' strongest rivals, have been forced to select one of their youngest and least experienced teams for many years.

The French have been hit by the retirement of Angelo Parisi, and a serious knee injury sustained by Del Colombo, so young heavyweights Jean Pierre Blesse and Christian Vachard will be blooded here.

Solano, Watanabe clash Thursday

TOKYO (R) — Superior punching power could give Dominican challenger Julio Soto Solano the edge when he tackles Japanese holder Jiro Watanabe for the World Boxing Council (WBC) super-flyweight title Thursday.

It will be 29-year-old Solano's first world title shot, but many believe his fast counter attacks and ruthless punching could trouble the champion in their scheduled 12-round bout.

Watanabe, a former World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-bantamweight champion, has impressed observers with his speed and agility during sparring here. But he is a year older and has fought considerably fewer fights than his opponent.

The Japanese has fought just 24 times, winning 23 bouts and losing one. He has won 16 times inside the distance, 21 inside the distance, but he has been beaten five times and drawn twice.

Yet Watanabe will be able to draw on the experience of 10 previous world title fights to outbox the hard-hitting challenger. And he has won his last nine dating back to April 1982.

Thursday's bout will be Watanabe's second defence of the crown he took from Thailand's Payao Pooltarat in Osaka, west Japan, last July in what was billed as a unification bout.

THE Daily Crossword by Joanne Wilson



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1 Honey drink
5 Lava
9 Corn porridge
13 An Emerson name
14 District
15 Copycat
16 Situated on a certain line
17 Reptiles
18 Arroyo
21 Order of angels
22 Eng. city
24 Author Joyce Carol
25 Titled lady
26 "and youth"
28 "and youth"
31 Surrounded by
32 Horse cart bar
37 Having a
41 Jewelry item
42 Branch of philosophy
43 "Branch of philosophy"
44 "greater love..."
45 Motor
46 Vegetable dish
48 Beils of the wild west
53 Fiction work
55 Made lullaby
56 Robert Blake
57 TV role
60 Behind the scenes
64 Saw
65 "a dagger which - before me"
66 USSR sea
67 Actress Berger
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2 Vale man
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6 Macaw
7 Cult
8 Jumble
9 Pacific island group
10 "of sweet will save a million"
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12 Fourth estate
13 Bankroll
14 Mangle
15 "generals"
16 Eggs
17 Roman and
18 Stock place
19 Skirt type
20 Cheaper
21 Dockworkers' org.
22 3-floor apartments
23 Go up
24 It. province
25 It. province
26 Solera
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43 Prison family members
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48 Vaccine name
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52 Roses
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57 Challenge
58 Cans
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.2085/2100	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3813/25	Canadian dollars
	3.1870/90	West German marks
	3.5970/6000	Dutch guilders
	2.6760/90	Swiss francs
	63.92/97	Belgian francs
	9.7050/7150	French francs
	2021.0/2023.0	Italian lire
	253.05/20	Japanese yen
	9.1600/1700	Swedish crowns
	9.1300/1400	Norwegian crowns
	11.4450/4550	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	313.75/314.25	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Selective institutional buying interest gave share prices a firm undertone but turnover remained thin, dealers said. Initial sentiment was still dampened by the larger than expected rise in U.K. M3 money supply and bank lending for April published Tuesday.

The FTSE 100 share index at 1430 GMT was up 4.1 at 1309.6, having dipped to 1304.7 earlier in the session.

Among leading issues ICI firmed 5p to 74p, BAT gained 6p to 321p and Thora EMI firmed 3p to 442p after 434. Government bonds were up to 9/16 point lower due to lack of buying interest while gold shares were mostly higher and North Americans were mixed.

Vickers continued its recent advance, up 12p at 306, following the news Tuesday of the 5.54 per cent stake acquired by Reliance Financial Corp and Burnab gained 12p to 253 on renewed bid speculation.

Marks and Spencer rose 6p to 139 and British Home Stores added 3p to 246 in further consideration of Tuesday's annual results while Costain firmed 14p to 390 following better than expected full year figures.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning brings out all sorts of problems with saying or doing the tactful thing, and it is not a good time to make commitments. You have an opportunity to make long-term plans.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Find a better way of handling career duties and later you can handle business matters very wisely.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You get some good ideas for becoming more successful provided you steer clear of a newcomer.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Go to an expert for advice about business problems, and then you can handle them wisely.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You and a partner may be at odds in the morning, but later can reach a sea accord.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Work may go slowly in the morning, but don't get discouraged since later all picks up and you can accomplish a great deal.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You find it difficult to reach one you like and make plans, but later something comes up and you can have a fine time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may not comprehend what is going on at home, but bide your time and then you can profit from the situation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try not to fly off the handle with a bigwig or you lose valuable support. Be very careful in the handling of mechanical gadgets.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You do not understand a monetary matter well in the morning, so give it more thought before you handle it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You may feel very anxious without cause in the morning, so go after your personal wishes with poise and gain them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Don't worry about a situation you can do little about. Concentrate on more practical affairs.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Early plan how to gain your personal wishes and then carry through in a most positive way and get right results.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have a real opportunity to which an element of good fortune is also added to make considerable headway through the biggest practical plans and arrangements that you can conceive.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get into practical affairs with higher-ups who are experts in fields you are most interested in. Get fine results during daytime.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) An emotional partner can give you fine ideas for progress, so listen carefully, but don't approach a bigwig tonight for backing.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You understand how to gain better standing via the work you are currently engaged in.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You can be with congenials for amusement today, but avoid bigwigs in the evening. Plan new entertainment for the future.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Keep rooted to interesting work during the day and accomplish a good deal, but don't go off on any tangent in the evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get your finest talents working during the daytime, and tonight don't get into any business schemes that could be troublesome.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Every chance is yours to improve conditions at home, so don't hesitate in doing so. Tonight avoid being pushed by a partner.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Contacting as many partners as you can and getting their support for your ambitions is wise in the morning.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Concentrate on how to have a greater income since your bank account is dwindling. Do not be extravagant.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You are in a position to gain a long-time wish, so make the most of this. Be more economical in the evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be more concerned with gaining personal wishes and make arrangements for such. Be positive. Drive with care.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Forget usual activity and concentrate on something new that can gain you greater benefits in the future.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she is a product of the Jet Age and will easily understand all modern trends and go along with them wisely, so be sure to give as many courses as possible. Be very encouraging and your progeny will become successful in such things as technology.

Egyptian budget projects smaller 1985/86 deficit

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian cabinet Tuesday presented a 1985/86 budget to parliament projecting a deficit of 4.9 billion pounds (\$5.9 billion), down from an estimated 5.4 billion (\$6.5 billion) in the current fiscal year.

A cabinet report presented to parliament put 1985/86 government spending at 20 billion pounds (\$24 billion), 11 per cent more than the estimated 18.3 billion (\$24.1 billion) for the current year.

This gives estimated revenue of 15.1 billion pounds (\$18.2 billion), up from 12.6 billion (\$15.2 billion) in 1984/85, but the report gave no indication of where the extra 20 per cent in revenue would come from.

It gave no projections for oil exports — Egypt currently exports about 300,000 barrels a day — or Suez Canal income, the government's two main sources of foreign currency after remittances from Egyptians working abroad.

Oil exports currently bring the government an estimated \$2.5 billion a year, while officials have said canal tolls were expected to top \$1 billion in 1984/85.

The report forecast remittances would drop to 2.24 billion pounds (\$2.7 billion) in 1985/86 from almost three billion (\$3.6 billion) this year.

It nevertheless forecast a decline in Egypt's balance of payments deficit to 800 million pounds (\$964 million) in the next financial year from one billion (\$1.2 billion) this year. It gave no reasons for the expected decline.

The budget forecast 7.4 per cent growth in gross domestic product in 1985/86, unchanged from the 1984/85 estimate, to 26.4 billion pounds (\$31.8 billion).

The figures compare with a 7.9 per cent annual average growth target under Egypt's 1982/87 development plan.

The budget draft left intact government subsidies on petrol and basic commodities, forecast at around two billion pounds (\$2.4 billion) in 1985/86.

It gave no details of defence expenditure.

Defence Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala said last year defence spending was less than 15 per cent of the budget — equivalent to about 2.7 billion pounds (\$3.3 billion) in 1984/85.

Other allocations included 4.5 billion pounds (\$5.4 billion) for agriculture, 1.7 billion (\$2.0 billion) for industry, 332 million (\$400 million) on oil development and 649 million (\$782 million) on housing.

Total 1985/86 investment was forecast at 7.7 billion pounds (\$9.3 billion), comprising 5.4 billion (\$6.5 billion) in the public sector and private investment of 2.3 billion pounds (\$2.8 billion).

The report gave no indication of how the budget deficit would be covered. The United States has pledged \$2.5 billion in aid to Egypt in 1985. It also receives financial assistance from other Western states.

Aside from the marketing turmoil, the company recorded a 1984 gross operating profit of JD 902,167 (JD 545,257 in 1983) as it produced 50,162 tonnes and sold 65,052 tonnes of reinforcing steel at a cost of JD 7.5 million (JD 6.5 million in 1983) against a revenue of JD 8.4 million (JD 7.0 million in 1983).

Taking into consideration re-

turned earnings from previous years — as well as administrative, financial and general expenses which were cut to JD 443,376 from JD 506,188 incurred during 1983 — the National Steel Industries Company announced a net profit of JD 506,363 (JD 46,654 in 1983) of which 400,000 was declared dividends to be distributed to shareholders at a rate of 10 per cent.

Other major items of importance shown in the company's financial statement as of Dec. 31, 1984 included JD 4.7 million in fixed assets, JD 1.9 million (JD 1.4 million) in receivables and JD 1.5 million (JD 2.6 million) in inventories.

The aforementioned figures, along with unamortised expenditures and expenses and deposits in lieu of letters of credits, showed the firm's total assets liabilities to JD 7.8 million from JD 8.8 million posted at the end of

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Other contributory factors were advanced machinery and equipment, efficient production control and cooperation between management and staff.

While other steel manufacturers had been finding it difficult to sell their products, Qatar has been able to market its reinforced steel bars promptly due to their quality, said the general manager.

He added that the export market was not "quite rosy". Several steel manufacturers were undercutting prices in the Gulf market, while some were dumping their products at \$220-\$225 per tonne against the international price of \$240-\$245.

He said the proposed levy of 20 per cent cut on steel imported from outside the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) would prove "a shot in the arm" for the local industry.

Ministers decided in Saudi Arabia last month to impose a 20 per cent duty on steel, cement and aluminium imported from outside GCC states.

Mr. Hasegawa said Saudi Arabia used to be Qatar steel's best buyer, taking 58 per cent of its products. But from the beginning of this year, the kingdom has been taking only ten per cent.

Disclosing this, Qasco General Manager Hiroshi Hasegawa said in an interview with Gulf Times

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